Numb. 99

The TATLER,

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

—*Spirat Tragicum satis & feliciter audet.*

From *Thursday November* 24, to *Saturday November* 26. 1709.

Will's Coffee-house, November 25.

I HAVE been this Evening recollecting what Passages (since I could first think) have left the strongest Impressions upon my Mind, and after strict Enquiry, I am convinced, that the Impulses I have received from Theatrical Representations, have had a greater Effect, than otherwise would have been wrought in me by the little Occurrences of my private Life. My old Friends, *Hart* and *Mohun*; the one by his natural and proper Force, the other by his great Skill and Art, never failed to send me Home full of such Ideas as affected my Behaviour, and made me insensibly more courteous and human to my Friends and Acquaintance. It is not the Business of a good Play to make every Man an Hero; but it certainly gives him a livelier Sense of Virtue and Merit than he had when he entered the Theatre. This rational Pleasure (as I always call it) has for many Years been very little tasted: But I am glad to find, that the true Spirit of it is reviving again amongst us, by a due Regard to what is presented, and by supporting only one Playhouse. It has been within the Observation of the youngest amongst us, That while there were Two Houses, they did not outvie each other by such Representations as tended to the Instruction and Ornament of Life, but by introducing musical Dances, and fulsom Buffoonries. For when an excellent Tragedy was to be acted in one House, the Ladder-Dancer carried the whole Town to the other: And indeed such an Evil as this, must be the natural Consequence of Two Theatres, as certainly as that there are more who can see than can think. Every one is Judge of the Danger of the Fellow on the Ladder, and his Activity in coming down safe; but very few are Judges of the Distress of an Hero in a Play, or of his Manner of Behaviour in those Circumstances. Thus, to please the People, Two Houses must entertain them with what they can understand, and not with Things which are designed to improve their Understanding: And the readiest Way to gain good Audiences, must be to offer such Things as are most relished by the Crowd; that is to say, immodest Action, empty Show, or impertinent Activity. In short, Two Houses cannot hope to subsist, but by Means which are contradictory to the very Institution of a Theatre in a well-govern'd Kingdom.

I have ever had this Sense of the Thing, and for that Reason have rejoiced that my ancient royal Friend of *Drury-Lane*, tho' he had sold off most of his Moveables, still kept Possession of his Palace, and trembled for him, when he had lately like to have been taken by a Stratagem. There have for many Ages been a certain Learned Sort of Unlearned Men in this Nation called Attornies, who have taken upon them to solve all Difficulties by increasing them, and are called upon to the Assistance of all who are lazy, or weak of Understanding. The Indolence of a Ruler of this Place made him resign the Possession of it to the Management of my above-mentioned Friend *Divito*. *Divito* was too modest to know when to resign it, till he had the Opinion and Sentence of the Law for his Removal. Both these in Length of Time were obtained against him: But as the great *Archimedes* defended *Syracuse* with so powerful Engines, that if he threw a Rope or Piece of Wood over the Wall, the Enemy fled; so *Divito* had wounded all Adversaries with so much Skill, that Men feared even to be in the Right against him. For this Reason, the lawful Ruler sets up an Attorney to expel an Attorney, and chose a Name dreadful to the Stage, who only seemed able to beat *Divito* out of his Intrenchments.

On the 22d Instant, a Night of publick Rejoycing, the Enemies of *Divito* made a Largess to the People of Faggots, Tubs, and other combustible Matter, which was erected into a Bonfire before the Palace. Plentiful Cans were at the same time distributed among the Dependences of that Principality; and the artful Rival of *Divito* observing them prepared for Enterprize, presented the lawful Owner of the neighbouring Edifice, and showed his Deputation under him. War immediately ensued upon the peaceful Empire of Wit and the Muses: The *Goths* and *Vandals* sacking *Rome* did not threaten a more barbarous Devastation of Arts and Sciences. But when they had forced their Entrance, the experienced *Divito* had detached all his Subjects, and evacuated all his Stores. The neighbouring Inhabitants report, That the Refuse of *Divito*'s Followers marched off the Night before disguised in Magnificence; Door-Keepers came out clad like Cardinals; and Scene-Drawers like Heathen Gods. *Divito* himself was wrapped up in one of his black Clouds, and left to the Enemy nothing but an empty Stage, full of Trap-Doors, known only to himself and his Adherents.

From my own Apartment, November 25.

I have already taken great Pains to inspire Notions of Honour and Virtue into the People of this Kingdom, and used all gentle Methods imaginable, to bring those who are dead in Idleness, Folly, and Pleasure, into Life, by applying themselves to Learning, Wisdom, and Industry. But since fair Means are ineffectual, I must proceed to Extremities

nities, and shall give my good Friends, the Company of Upholders, full Power to bury all such Dead as they meet with, who are within my former Descriptions of deceased Persons. In the mean Time the following Remonstrance of that Corporation I take to be very just.

From our Office near the Hay-Market, *Nov.* 23.

Worthy SIR,

'UPON Reading your *Tatler* of *Saturday* last, by which we received the agreeable News of so many Deaths, we immediately ordered in a considerable Quantity of Blacks; and our Servants have wrought Night and Day ever since, to furnish out the Necessaries for these Deceased. But so it is, Sir, that of this vast Number of dead Bodies, that go putrifying up and down the Streets, not one of them has come to us to be buried. Tho' we should be loth to be any Hinderance to our good Friends the Physicians, yet we cannot but take Notice, what Infection Her Majesty's Subjects are liable to from the horrible Stench of so many Corpses. Sir, we will not detain you; our Case in short is this: Here are we embarked in this Undertaking for the Publick Good: Now if People shall be suffered to go on unburied at this Rate, there's an End of the usefulest Manufactures and Handicrafts of the Kingdom: For where will be your Sextons, Coffinmakers, and Plummers? What will become of your Embalmers, Epitaph-mongers, and Chief Mourners? We are loth to drive this Matter any further, tho' we tremble at the Consequences of it: For if it shall be left to every dead Man's Discretion not to be buried till he sees his Time, no Man can say where that will end; but thus much we will take upon us to affirm, That *such a Toleration will be intollerable.*

'What would make us easy in this Matter, is no more but that your Worship would be pleas'd to issue out your Orders to *ditto* Dead to repair forthwith to our Office, in order to their Interrment, where constant Attendance shall be given to treat with all Persons according to their Quality, and the Poor to be buried for nothing: And for the Convenience of such Persons as are willing enough to be dead, but that they are afraid their Friends and Relations should know it, we have a Back-Door into *Warwick-Street*, from whence they may be interred with all Secrecy imaginable, and without Loss of Time, or Hinderance of Business. But in case of Obstinacy, (for we would gladly make a thorough Riddance) we desire a further Power from your Worship, to take up such Deceased as shall not have complied with your first Orders, wherever we meet them: And if after that there shall be Complaints of any Persons so offending, let them lie at our Doors. We are,

Your Worship's till Death,

The Master and Company of Upholders.

'*P. S.* We are ready to give in our printed Proposals at large; and if your Worship approves of our Undertaking, we desire the following Advertisement may be inserted in your next Paper.

Whereas a Commission of Interrment has been awarded against Dr. John Partridge, *Philomath, Professor of Physick and Astrology; and whereas the said* Partridge *hath not surrendred himself, nor shown Cause to the contrary, These are to certify, That the Company of Upholders will proceed to bury him from* Cordwainers-*Hall, on* Tuesday *the 29th Instant, where any Six of his surviving Friends, who still believe him to be alive, are desired to come prepared to hold up the Pall.*

Note, We shall light away at Six in the Evening, there being to be a Sermon.

Advertisements.

THere is a new Sort of Light, call'd a Globe-Light, at S. James's Coffee-house near St. James's Palace, which is observ'd to enlighten the Street, and all Parts near it, with a true steady Light, no way offensive to the Eye. The Person who contriv'd it, and sets it up, may be heard of there, having obtain'd Her Majesty's Letters Patents for the same.

*** The Statutes at large, in Three Volumes; Wingate and Washington's Abridgments, with a Supplement to them; Mr. Clutterbuck's Plain and Rational Vindication and Explanation of the Liturgy, Dr. Gibson on the Sacrament, at 1 l. 5 s. per Hundred; Winchester Manual; Bibles and Common Prayers of all Sorts, ruled or unruled; a fine Set of Cuts for the Common Prayer, engraved by Mr. Sturt; Dr. Nicolls's Paraphrase on the Common Prayer; the New Welch Common Prayer and Psalms, with or without Cuts; and Tate and Brady's Psalms, with the New Supplement; Bishop Beveridge's Catechism, Dr. Williams's Catechism; are sold by R. Whitledge, at the Bible and Ball in Ave-Mary-lane near Ludgate, at the lowest Prices.

*** A Military Dictionary: Explaining all difficult Terms in Martial Discipline, Fortification, and Gunnery. The Third Edition, Improved. To which is likewise added, a Sea Dictionary of all the Terms of Navigation. Both of them very useful to all Persons that read the Publick News, or serve in the Army, Navy or Militia; for the Understanding the Accounts of Sieges, Battles, and other Warlike and Marine Expeditions, which daily occur in this Time of Action. By Officers who serv'd several Years at Sea and Land. Printed, and sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s. 6 d.

*** Annals of the Universe; containing an Account of the most Memorable Actions, Affairs and Occurrences, which have happen'd in the World, but especially in Europe, from the Year 1660, where Mr. Whitlock leaves off, to the Year 1680. In Two Decades: With an Index to the Whole. Being a Continuation of the said Mr. Whitlock's Memorials. Printed for William Carter, at the Rose and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard; and to be sold by John Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

*** Estimatis Probatæ & Exercitæ Liber Memorialis, Naturali Ordine ita Dispositus, ut sine ulla Memoriæ Defatigatione, Notitia Vocabulorum non solum capi facillime, sed feliciter etiam repeti ac conservari possit. In Usum Scholarum confectus, a Christophero Cellario, Hal. Academ. P. P. Nunc in notabilium Usum, a Germanica in Linguam Anglicanam versus, A M. B. Impensis B. Tooke, subter Medii Templi Portam, & M. Atkins ad Insigne Globi Aurei in Cœmeterio D. Pauli. Pret. 1 s. 6 d.

*** A Supplement to the New Version of Psalms, by Dr. Brady, and Mr. Tate; containing, the Psalms in particular Measures; the usual Hymns, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, Holy Sacrament, &c. with Gloria Patri's, and Tunes (Treble and Bass) proper to each of them, and all the rest of the Psalms. The Sixth Edition, Corrected; and much enlarged; With the Addition of Plain Instructions for all those who are desirous to learn or improve themselves in Psalmody; near 20 new Tunes, composed by several of the best Masters; and a Table of Psalms suited to the Feasts and Fasts of the Church, &c. With Tables of all the Psalms of the New, Old, and Dr. Patrick's Versions; directing what Tunes are fitted for each Psalm. The Whole being a Compleat Psalmody, Useful for Teachers and Learners of either Version. Printed; and Sold by James Holland, at the Bible and Ball, at the West-End of St. Paul's.

A Plain and Rational Vindication and Explanation of the Liturgy of the Church of England, Collected out of the Discourses of some of the Reverend Bishops and Doctors of that Church, by Way of Question and Answer. With a short Explanation of the Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments. By J. Clutterbuck, Gent. The Fourth Edition, with large Improvements. Printed in a Volume convenient to bind with the Common-Prayer, proper for Schools, and may be acceptable to many of Riper Years. Sold by R. Whitledge in Ave-Mary-Lane, and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, 1709. Price 6 d. or 100 for 45 s. to such as are Charitably disposed.

*** A New Set of Cuts for the Common Prayer, 55 in Number, far exceeding any done in Great Britain before. Engraven by J. Sturt: And sold by him in Golden-Lion-Court Aldersgate-street; R. Whitledge in Ave-Mary-Lane; J. Morphew, and J. Hazard, near Stationers-Hall. Pr. 3 s.

TUrkey Coffee, 6 s. Bohee from 12 to 24 s. all Sorts of Green, the lowest, 12 s. Chocolate with Sugar, 2 s. 2 d. all Nut, 3 s. 6 d. Right Brazil Snuff, 48 s. Portugal, 28 s. with Allowance to them that buy Quantities. Plain Snuff from Mexico, Port St. Lucar, Barcelona, and Amazons: Sold very cheap by Wholesale or Retale, at the Star in Bedford-Court near Covent-Garden.